

Sasakawa USA/USJETAA Grant Final Report: JETAA Minnesota

**Event:** Film & Discussion: Fall Seven Times, Get Up Eight: The Japanese War Brides  
**Organizer:** US-18 JET Alumni Association Minnesota  
**Date:** January 21, 2017  
**Place:** Pillsbury Auditorium  
**Attendees:** 82

After WWII: Japan Communities in Minnesota  
Film & Discussion  
Fall Seven Times, Get Up Eight: The Japanese War Brides  
Saturday, January 21, 2017, 1:30 PM  
Pillsbury Auditorium

Three women -- all firstborn daughters of Japanese war brides -- recall their mothers' lives in 1950s America. These were the brides young GIs brought home from an enemy nation. By at least one estimate, nearly 50,000 Japanese women crossed the Pacific as wives of American men between the end of WWII and the close of the 1950s... an unprecedented, heretofore unthinkable migration of Asian women to US shores and yet an event that has been largely overlooked. Living in mostly isolated communities scattered across the US, the women were left largely to their own devices as they tried to navigate a racially segregated American society. Drawing on personal anecdotes we paint a portrait of their saga that is in equal measure triumph, humor and sadness. We tell their stories both as journalists, and as the mixed-race children who experienced firsthand their dreams, struggles and aspirations.

Fall Seven Times, Get Up Eight: The Japanese War Brides (2016, 26 min) Blue Chalk Media, starring Atsuko Craft, Lucy Craft, Emiko Kasmauski.

The film screening will be followed by a discussion moderated by Kay Thomas with Mr. Lawrence Farrar, career diplomat who was posted in Japan five times and Professor Hiromi Mizuno, Associate Professor in History at the University of Minnesota.

There will be a reception after the screening.

Co-presented with Japan America Society of Minnesota & JET Alumni Association of Minnesota

Supported by Sasakawa USA and USJETAA

**Report:**

The event took place on the same day as the Women's march so we lost some of our audience to that, but still had a turnout of 82 people. We had to move into the larger viewing space as there were over 100 RSVPs. The documentary was well received and while Breckenridge-san declined to be part of the panel, she did not feel her English was up to it, and was unable to attend we did have the son of a war bride in the audience who asked a question of the moderators. We were able to film the Q&A portion of the event and I have included a copy with the report out materials. We had two very different

perspectives on the panel and Mr. Farrar brought an interesting perspective having been on the side of making policy decisions while Mizuno brought her perspective as a professor of Japanese History. For future events I would look for one or two more panelists.

The majority of the people who attended the screening came down to the reception and it was a great opportunity to continue some of the discussions that had started in the panel discussion. The panelists both were able to stay for the entire event and asked if we would be doing future events like this. The Mia also seemed interested in planning another event together in the future.

The one thing I would try to avoid next time would be scheduling the same day as a huge demonstration. One of our panelists had to back out because of the march and we also lost several attendees and foot traffic was slower at the Mia that day as well. All this turned into a smaller turnout. But 80 people is still a great crowd for us and also meant that we had enough food from catering.

Because of the positive response to this event and the great turnout we are hoping to be able to partner with other groups around the Twin Cities and collaborate on ways to bring Japanese-American culture and history to a wider audience.

